

May 31, 2022

We ask the City of San Diego to adopt all-electric ordinances for new construction with no exceptions. This important action will reduce carbon emissions and air pollution and help protect the health of children and future generations. Almost half of the pollution from California buildings come from the burning of natural gas, mainly for heat and hot water.

Natural gas is a marketing term for methane. Methane is not only a greenhouse gas, it is also a hazardous indoor air pollutant, increasing the risk of asthma and other respiratory diseases along with cardiovascular problems. Asthma is the most common chronic illness among children, the largest cause of school absences, and is the third leading cause of hospitalization among children under the age of 15. Asthma also disproportionately affects communities of color. Methane has no business anywhere near children. We must completely end the use of “natural gas”.

Modern electric induction stoves are very energy efficient and safe as are electric water heaters and clothes dryers. There are already electric solutions for pools, spas and outdoor fireplaces/fire rings. There is absolutely no reason to allow methane.

Over 50 cities in California, like Oakland, Berkeley, San Luis Obispo, Encinitas and Solana Beach have passed electrification ordinances and others are underway.

The CAP should also look at incentives for retrofitting existing buildings for not only electrification, but maximizing energy efficiency as well.

We also ask the City to prioritize healthy soils and wetlands and that means moving quickly away from synthetic pesticides and fertilizers. A non-toxic Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program that does not allow synthetic pesticides or fertilizers must be part of the CAP with incentives and programs to educate and encourage farmers to use chemical free methods for pest control. [Healthy soil is important to sequestering carbon](#). But pesticides destroy the microbes that make healthy soil. Considering the vast majority of synthetic pesticides are derived from fossil fuels, reducing pesticides also means greatly reducing the use of fossil fuels.

Pesticides are also a threat to human health, a threat that the EPA is not addressing. Legal does not mean safe. The Intercept recently published the article [How Pesticide Companies Corrupted the EPA and Poisoned America](#). Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., is quoted in the article “These findings are profoundly alarming and point to a troubling pattern of disregard at the EPA’s Office of Pesticide Programs.” The Intercept also published a [9 part series](#) on how the EPA is failing to evaluate and test pesticide and chemicals due to industry interference.

For more information on pesticides and toxic chemicals, please see our [Team 5 page](#). For more information on regenerative farming, permaculture, organics and healthy soils, please click [here](#).

Taking Climate Action means stopping the use of fossil fuels which pollutes our air. Air pollution from fossil fuels is responsible for [1 in 5 deaths worldwide](#).

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), air pollution is the [greatest environmental risk to our health](#). The WHO estimates  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{3}$  of all deaths from heart disease, stroke, lung disease and

cancer are [because of air pollution](#). Even short term exposure is dangerous. A [recent study](#) linked increased risk of Covid with just 2 days of increased air pollution.

San Diego County got an F in ozone and particulate matter from the recently released [State of the Air 2022 report](#) from the American Lung Association. Combining smog and soot, San Diego has the worst air in the nation, according to CalPIRGs [October 2021 report](#). Air pollution especially [hurts minority communities](#) in San Diego.

We must quickly transition to clean, renewable energy from solar and with energy storage and stop burning anything for our energy.

We ask the City of San Diego to pass an ordinance to stop wood burning fireplaces in new construction along with stopping gas lines.

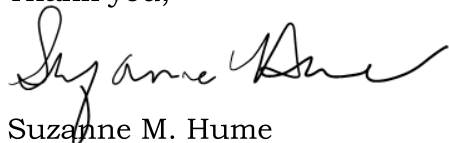
Wood smoke is a complex mixture of gases and fine particles, called particulate matter. PM2.5 is especially dangerous. These particles are 2.5 microns or smaller. By comparison, the average human hair is 50 microns wide. Researchers estimate that PM2.5 is responsible for almost 48,000 [premature deaths](#) in the US every year. Particulate matter irritates the lungs and there is a growing body of [research](#) that clearly shows that wood smoke increases the risk of serious health outcomes including asthma, heart attacks, strokes, cancer, and brain conditions like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and dementia.

Wood smoke also contains cancer causing pollutants like benzene, formaldehyde, acrolein and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons or PAHs, along with carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and methane. Burning 10 lbs. of wood in 1 hour creates the same cancer-causing PAHs as 6,000 packs of cigarettes. That's like smoking a pack of cigarettes a day for 16 years...just by sitting next to a wood fire. Here is a [link](#) for information about wood smoke. You can also contact [Doctors & Scientists Against Wood Smoke Pollution](#).

Below are some additional suggestions for CAP. Please take a look at our [Action Plan](#) on our website, [CleanEarth4Kids.org](#), for more ideas.

1. Purchase land to conserve it as open space.
2. Purchase only zero emission vehicles for the city fleet and replace existing vehicles
3. Expand EV charging station infrastructure, especially for multi-unit rental properties
4. Increase the city urban tree canopy
5. Add a No Idling Policy, like in the City of Oceanside CAP, and install No Idling signs using children's art throughout the county along with an education campaign about the dangers of parked vehicle idling. Idling burns over 3.8 million gallons of fuel every day in the United States, adding 30 million tons of CO2 to the atmosphere!

Thank you,



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